IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, as follows:

An additional concern in using the mesh network itself for signaling is that, within existing networks, for example, in SONET networks that are already widely deployed, there may be

5 heterogeneous network elements, such as network elements with diverse monitoring, signaling and cross-connect functionality and databases. For example, the network may include older generation network elements of a given manufacturer, or network elements provided by a number of manufacturers, that each provide varying restoration capabilities, if any. A need therefore exists for a signaling method and apparatus that permits the restoration of a failed primary service path, even

10 in the presence of such non-conforming network elements.